CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

Center for Modern Greek Studies
The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair
San Francisco State University

ΜΑΝΤΑΤΟΦΟΡΟΣ*
Modern Greek Studies Foundation

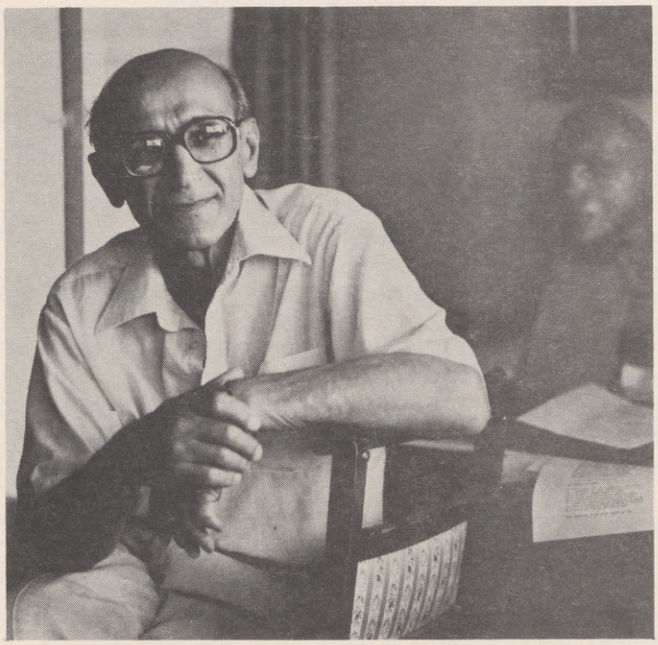
FALL 1985 | *MANTATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger | VOL. 1, NO. 2

Kimon Friar To Be Kazantzakis Chair-Holder

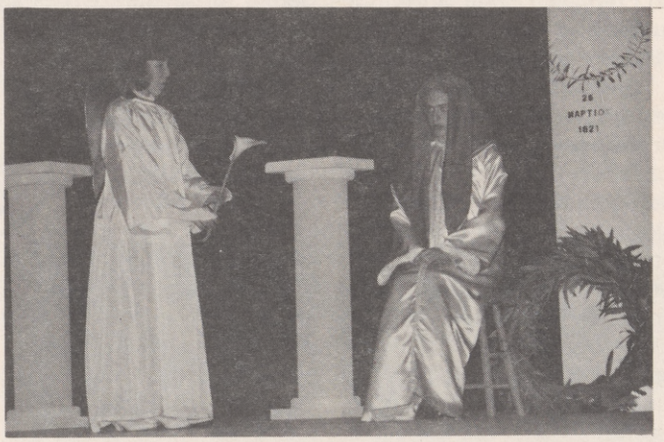
Kimon Friar, pre-eminent translator of modern Greek poetry and major works of Kazantzakis, will be the first visiting distinguished scholar to occupy the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair. He will teach courses on Kazantzakis and Modern Greek Poetry at San Francisco State University during the spring semester, 1986, and will also present public lectures throughout the state of California under the auspices of the Chair and the Center for Modern Greek Studies.

Friar was born of Greek parentage on an island in the Sea of Marmara, brought to the U.S. at an early age—where he studied and taught at various universities—and returned to Greece in 1946. His translations have won him numerous awards and his vast contribution to modern Greek letters is recognized internationally. Kazantzakis himself delivered the ultimate praise: that Friar's translation of his (Kazantzakis') *Odyssey* was as fine as the original; other critics have hailed Friar as "a poet in his own right" and "a master translator."

It is an honor to have Kimon Friar as our first visiting Chair-holder and we look forward to welcoming him.



Kimon Friar, first Distinguished Visiting Scholar to the Kazantzakis Chair. Credit—Elke Geiger



The Center for Modern Greek Studies assisted the United Hellenic-American Societies of the San Francisco Bay Area in presenting an excellent **Hellenic National Independence Day Commemoration** *held at McKenna Theater, San Francisco State University, on March 24, 1985. Credit—Fanis Economides*

Our Long-range Plans

• To establish a **Kazantzakis Resource Archive** to hold all available material on the life and work of Kazantzakis, including photographs, documentaries and films based on his novels. This has already begun with help from Mrs. Helen Kazantzakis, Mr. Patroklos Stavrou—the literary executor of Kazantzakis—and the Kazantzakis Museum in Varvari, Crete.

• To acquire written and pictorial material pertaining to the modern history of Crete, particularly to historical events which figure in the works of Kazantzakis, and also folk art of contemporary Crete to comprise a **Cretan Room** — permanent exhibits of art and a research facility

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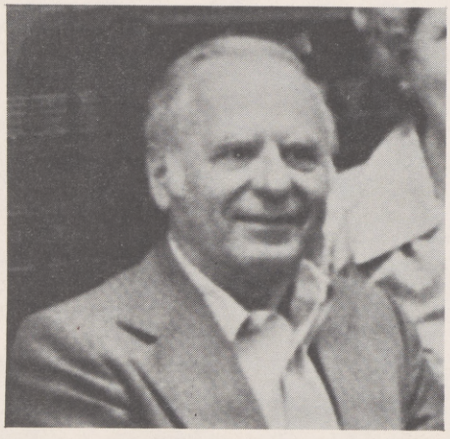
KALIDOSKOPIO OF GREECE
Benefit Performance for Modern Greek Studies Foundation & Greek Folk Dancing Groups

The Oakland Community Concert Association will present the colorful **Kalidoskopio Folk Dancers and Musicians** on October 25, 1985 at the magnificent Paramount Theater in Oakland. A substantial part of the gross receipts will be donated by the Association to the San Francisco State University's Center for Modern Greek Studies and to folk-dancing groups of the Greek Orthodox parishes in northern California.

Under the direction of **Giorgos Katsaros**, a multi-talented musician, composer and television personality, the Kalidoskopio Folk Dancers and Musicians preserve and renew the Hellenic folk heritage through the traditional dances of Greece. The pride and history of a colorful people are brought to life by dances such as the popular *tsamiko*, poetic *zembekiko* and Zorba's *syrtaki*. The **Katsaros Television Bouzouki Orchestra** of Athens completes this celebrated ensemble of singers and musicians, and together with bouzouki soloist and leader **Yannis Bithikotsis**, the Kalidoskopio is among Greece's most popular entertainment groups today—regularly featured on television, in cabarets and with many of the country's biggest stars.

Admission to this exciting Greek cultural program is through membership in the Oakland Community Concert Association. The annual dues are only $20.00 per person ($10.00 for students). The Association's dues entitle the member admission not only to the Kalidoskopio of Greece, but also to all concerts for the season; three other musical performances (**Trio Sonata, New York Light Opera Company** and pianist **Keith Snell**) are scheduled in early 1986.

So join and enjoy! Information and season tickets can be obtained by contacting one of the following: Anna Efstathiou—339-8357 (S.F.), George Lekas—531-3451 (Oakland), Center for Modern Greek Studies—469-1892, Elaine Pepares, President, Folk Dance Federation of the 4th diocese—523-5813 or your local Greek Orthodox parish.



George Lekas.

International Institute Honors George Lekas

On April 28, 1985, Modern Greek Studies Foundation Treasurer and founding member **George Lekas** was honored at a dinner and awards ceremony given by the International Institute of the East Bay. The Institute selected Lekas as the *Greek Immigrant of the Year* in recognition of his long record of outstanding service to the Bay Area. He was also chosen as radio station KABL's "Citizen of the Day" on July 26, 1985, for his "contributions to the welfare of our community."

George, a public accountant, has lent his financial expertise—and personal assistance—to new immigrants from Greece since he arrived in the U.S. in 1947. He has also been active in the Order of Ahepa and in the Oakland Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension.

In the 1950's he helped found the Society of Greek Arts, which brought contemporary Greek music and cultural programs to the S.F. Bay Area; for several years he was treasurer of the Hellenic American Professional Society of California.

George has helped Cypriot refugees in his capacity as treasurer for the Friends of Cyprus Committee for Northern California, and he has aided other immigrants, students, the elderly and the sick in arranging social and financial services.

Mr. Lekas was born in Harakas, Laconia, Greece. In World War II he fought with the Greek army on the Albanian front and later joined the resistance movement against the Nazi occupation forces, and then served as the first President of Veterans of the Greek-Italian War of 1940-41. He is a graduate of the Law School of Athens and also Birmingham Southern College's Business Administration School, and has done post-graduate work at Golden Gate University.

Author Scourby Lectures On West Coast

The Center for Modern Greek Studies coordinated the recent state-wide lecture tour of sociologist **Alice Scourby**, author of *The Greek Americans*. Dr. Scourby spoke to the Hellenic American Professional Society of northern California—both in Sacramento and San Francisco—and was also a featured speaker at the Greek Diocese Clergy Lady Meeting and Philoptohos Conference at St. Nicholas Ranch.

Dr. Scourby is Professor of Sociology, Chair of the Department of Sociology, and founder and coordinator of women's studies at C.W. Post Center of Long Island University. She is the author and editor of several books concerning Greek-Americans and has published numerous articles. Her most recent book, *The Greek Americans*, is by Twayne Publishers/G.K. Hall & Co. (address: 70 Lincoln St., Boston, MA 02111).

Dr. Alice Scourby (left) with the Honorable Dimis Vassilakis, Consul General of Greece, and Violet Nicholas, President of the Hellenic American Professional Society of California.

Our Advisory Committee

The Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University is pleased to have on its Advisory Committee the following persons:

Dr. Apostolos Athanassakis, Chair, Department of Classics, University of California, Santa Barbara and University of Crete
Dr. Theodore Bogdanos, San Jose State University (Byzantine Literature and Music)
Dr. William Bonds, Chair, Department of History, San Francisco State University (Byzantine History)
Dr. John Cambus, Chair, Department of Mass Communication, Hayward State University
Dr. Peter Haikalis, Assistant Library Director for Readers Services, San Francisco State University
Mrs. Alkmini Koury Bloom (Greek Folk Dance, Music and Folk Culture)
Dr. Nancy McDermid, Dean, School of Humanities, San Francisco State University
Dr. Epaminondas Panagopoulos, San Jose State University (Modern Greek History)
Mr. Nicholas Rozakos (Cultural Historian of Greeks in the U.S.)
Dr. Dwight Simpson, Professor of International Relations, San Francisco State University
Dr. Richard Trapp, Chair, Department of Classics & Comparative Literature, San Francisco State University
Prof. Nanos Valaoritis, San Francisco State University (Modern Greek Literature)

New Contributors To The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Eleni Kazantzakis (substantial donation)
Ellen Boneparth, Washington, D.C.
Themis Christo, San Francisco
Katherine Fotinos, Sonoma
Roxani M. Gillespie, San Francisco
Mr. & Mrs. George Pitzer, Stockton
Loys Rodatos, Daly City
Edward J. Stathes, San Francisco
John & Dorothea Vasil, Menlo Park

Our apologies to **Mr. & Mrs. George Marcus** of Los Altos Hills, whom we erroneously omitted from the list of "Major Contributors" to the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair in our previous issue.

The Marcuses had the novel idea of holding a modern-day Olympic Games festival on their home grounds as a fund-raiser. The idea became a grand and enjoyable event, and a successful benefit for the Modern Greek Studies Foundation.

Say It In Greek — Language Classes

Classes in speaking, reading and writing modern Greek are offered at S.F. State University, and also at S.F. City College and at the University of California Extension. For information and enrollment forms call 469-1892/469-2068 (S.F. State); 239-3358 (City College); and 642-8840 (U.C. Extension).

Join Us!

The Modern Greek Studies Foundation is appealing to all persons who support the goals of the Foundation and the programs of the Center to send in their tax-deductible donations (see special cut-off form on back page) and to contact the Foundation if they wish to volunteer their time and services.

We will place you on our mailing list to receive our newsletter, as well as announcements of, and invitations to, other special events sponsored by the MGSF and the Center. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

MANTATOPHOROS is issued quarterly by the Center for Modern Greek Studies and the Modern Greek Studies Foundation. Address: Center for Modern Greek Studies, School of Humanities, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Avenue, S.F., CA 94132. Telephone: (415) 469-1892/469-2068.

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CENTER FOR MODERN GREEK STUDIES

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December 10, 1983

Dear Friends,

As you may know, for the past two years the Modern Greek Studies Foundation has been engaged in fund raising to support the programs of the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University and to establish an endowed Chair in Modern Greek Literature and Culture. Our efforts have been for the most part successful, chiefly through a major donation ($200,000.00) by Mr. Angelo Tsakopoulos of Sacramento, California, and the support of many friends and organizations in the Greek-American community. In the past two years the Foundation has funded courses in Modern Greek Studies and cultural programs presented by the Center for Modern Greek Studies and the Modern Greek Studies Foundation.

On October 24, 1983 the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair was inaugurated at San Francisco State University. Although the full endowment for the Chair ($500,000.00) has not been raised we proceeded to inaugurate the Chair during the Centennial Year of Nikos Kazantzakis, and in the presence of his widow, Mrs. Helen Kazantzakis. We still need to raise the remainder of the required endowment, $200,000.00, so that the Modern Greek Studies program can function at an optimum level, which includes developing an academic interdisciplinary major in Modern Greek Studies, bringing visiting scholars and artists to the University and presenting cultural programs to the community.

We are writing to you, a person committed to fostering the Hellenic traditions and culture, to ask for your support in this important effort. We would very much appreciate your personal contribution toward the endowment of the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, as well as any effort to secure support for this purpose from your friends. All contributions to the Modern Greek Studies Foundation are tax-deductible.

Bishop Anthony of San Francisco, Honorary Chairman, Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Professor Thanasis Maskaleris, Director, Center for Modern Greek Studies, S.F.S.U.

Sincerely,

California Senator Nicholas C. Petris, President, Modern Greek Studies Foundation

George M. Marcus, Chairman of the Board, Modern Greek Studies Foundation

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MODERN GREEK STUDIES FOUNDATION

☐ I would like more information about the Modern Greek Studies Foundation. Please place me on your mailing list.

☐ I would like to support the Modern Greek Studies Foundation. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of $_____.

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